

Megan Nunn

My name is Megan Nunn and I am 25 years old. I live in Winnipeg with my fiancé and work in Finance with my family in the Aerospace industry. When I'm not crunching numbers, I am at the barn. You could easily classify me as a certified horse nut!

I purchased my first horse, Dusty, and began riding at the age of eight, when I moved from Brandon to a rural community in South Western Manitoba. My extended family ran a large Quarter Horse breeding operation where I worked part time for ten years with broodmares and the young livestock on the farm. I rode western and most of my time in the saddle was moving herds of cattle or horses. I also helped start or bring along the young stock under saddle and prepare horses for sales. Although I loved my life on the farm, my secret ambition has always been to show horses like the people I saw on TV at Spruce Meadows.

I have always been obsessed with horses (owning upwards of thirty *My Little Ponies* as a child) but have surely come a long way since 1993 when I began my journey without a shred of horse sense (and even the most basic tools for owning and riding horses.) Today, I still own Dusty along with another mare, Copper Dolly, who I began retraining in 2005 (and retired this winter.)

Currently I also receive sponsorship to ride an additional two horses out of the stable where I train 5-6 days per week. My main full time partner is Dionne, a 9 year old Premium Oldenburg mare who I became involved with in the fall 2008. The balance of my time is spent with an 11 year old Thoroughbred gelding named Gentle Quest (G.Q.) who has made the switch from racing to dressage. I became involved with him briefly in 2007 and again in August 2009.

My life at the barn is spent not only focusing on the sport of dressage but also on incorporating natural horsemanship into my daily regime to supplement my ridden work. I began experimenting with dressage in 2004 and in September 2008 made the commitment to pursue it (and hopefully compete) with *excellence* when my dream horse, Dionne, came into my life. I spend an average of 3-6 hours a day at the barn (with at least one day per week spent in riding lessons preparing for the upcoming show season.) Each day follows the same routine: an intensive grooming session; a thorough massage and stretching regime; applying protective bandages and then a warm up session on the ground. I use my natural horsemanship to mentally and physically prepare my horses for their ride and from there, try to keep every ride as positive and progressive as possible for my horses.

I can't say for sure what level I will end up showing, but whatever level it is, my main goal is to preserve my horse's confidence. I whole-heartedly believe that is the key in their success in this physically and emotionally demanding sport. I have made it my personal mission not just to prepare my horses for the upcoming show season, but for a lifetime of successful competition in dressage. If there were ever a *Dressage Winnipeg "Happy Horse Award"* I would absolutely love for one of my horses to win it!

I hope my holistic and natural approach to horsemanship will prove to produce sound, well-rounded and happy athletes for years to come as I work towards my ultimate goal of riding Grand Prix.

Successes/Results for 2009:

- Training Level – 1st Place x 1, 2nd Place x 4, 3rd Place x 1
- Equitation test score of 67% (2nd Place)

